

Ref.

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 1. Part 17. Pp. 147-158.

OPINION 8

On the retention of “*ii*” or “*i*” in specific patronymic names, under Article 14, third paragraph, and Article 19 of the International Code

LONDON:

Printed by Order of the International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature

Sold at the Publications Office of the Commission
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7

1945

Price three shillings

(All rights reserved)

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF *OPINION 8*

The Officers of the Commission

President : Professor Raphael Blanchard (France).

Executive Secretary : Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles (U.S.A.).

Recording Secretary : Professor F. C. von Maehrenthal (Germany).

The Members of the Commission

Class 1910

Monsieur le Professeur Raphael BLANCHARD (France) (*President of the Commission*).

Monsieur le Professeur L. JOUBIN (France).

Dr. Charles Wardell STILES (U.S.A.) (*Executive Secretary to the Commission*).

Dr. Th. STUDER (Switzerland).

Professor R. Ramsay WRIGHT (Canada).

Class 1913

Monsieur le Professeur Ph. DAUTZENBERG (France).

Professor William Evan HOYLE (United Kingdom).

Dr. L. von GRAFF (Austria-Hungary).

Professor F. C. von MAEHRENTHAL (Germany) (*Recording Secretary to the Commission*).

Professor F. OSBORN (U.S.A.).

Class 1916

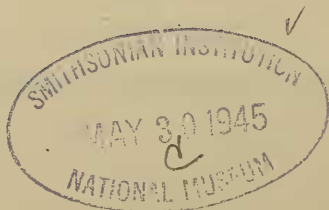
Dr. F. A. JENTINK (Netherlands).

Professor David Starr JORDAN (U.S.A.).

Professor F. S. MONTICELLI (Italy).

Herr Geheimrat Dr. F. E. SCHULZE (Germany).

Dr. Leonhard STEJNEGER (U.S.A.).



Ref.

OPINION 8.

ON THE RETENTION OF "ii" OR "i" IN SPECIFIC¹ PATRONYMIC NAMES, UNDER ARTICLE 14, THIRD PARAGRAPH, AND ARTICLE 19 OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE.

SUMMARY.—Specific¹ patronymics originally published as ending in "ii" (as *schrankii*, *eichhornii*) are, according to Article 19, to be retained in their original form, despite the provision of Article 14, third paragraph, that they should have been formed only with one "i".²

I.—STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

The following cases have been submitted by Professor Charles A. Kofoid for *Opinion* :—

Ceratium schranki Kofoid, described in *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.* vol. 3, p. 306, 1907, is cited by Karsten in 1908 (*Wiss. Ergebn. d. deutsch. Tiefsee Exped.*, Bd. 2, p. 539) as *Ceratium tripos schrankii* Kofoid. Should not the second *i* be omitted in accordance with the rule for forming the genitive of a proper name used as a specific name¹ as stated in Article 14 of the Code?

Hudson in 1883 (*Journ. Roy. Micr. Soc.*, vol. 3, Ser. 2, p. 621) described *Asplanchna Ebbesbornii*. Jennings in 1901 (*Bull. U.S. Fish Comm.*, Vol. 19, p. 80) cites *Asplanchna ebbesbornii* Hudson. Should not the second "i" be omitted?

The two cases above cited differ in the fact that the first is subsequent, the second prior to the establishment of the Code, in so far as the proposal of the specific name¹ is concerned.

II.—DISCUSSION OF THE CASE.

2. The point raised by Professor Kofoid applies to a very large number of specific names¹ which have presented occasion for a great lack of uniformity among authors. The origin of this confusion is to be seen in the lack of uniformity as to the method followed by various authors in originally introducing names.

¹ As pointed out in NOTE 4 to *Opinion* 1 (see pp. 78–79 above), the scientific designation of an animal consists of two words, which together constitute the "specific name" of the species; the first of these words is the "generic name"; the second of these words is the "trivial name." As used in *Opinion* 8, the expression "specific name" is identical in meaning with the expression "trivial name," which would have been the more correct expression to employ. Similarly, the expression "specific patronymic name" as used in the same *Opinion* has the meaning "trivial name based upon a patronymic."

² For the explanation of the cause which led to the inadvertent citation of this reference as "Art. 14c." in the original issue of this *Opinion*, see footnote 3 below.

3. Many authors in proposing a specific ¹ patronymic have first created a Latin form of the name (as *Schrankius*) of the person (Schrank) to whom the species was to be dedicated, and have taken the genitive (*schrankii*) of the Latin name. Other authors have formed a Latin genitive by the simple addition of the single "i" (*schranki*) now provided for in Article 14, third paragraph.³

4. It would undoubtedly be a great convenience if all the names ending in "ii" could be changed uniformly to "i," as a number of authors have tried to do. At the same time it may be pointed out that this attempt to simplify the names has in reality created still further confusion in another direction, namely: There exist a number of authors' names which end in "i," as *Monticelli*, and various writers who have apparently not known the exact name of the author have changed patronymics (such as *monticellii*) based on these names to the single "i" (as *monticelli*), thus making the specific name⁴ identical with the author's name.

5. In some cases authors write these patronymics with a capital initial letter (*Monticellii*, *Monticelli*) in accordance with the option given in Article 13. As a result, confusion has repeatedly occurred because it thus becomes impossible for an author, not familiar with all the circumstances, to distinguish whether he is dealing with a generic name proposed by *Monticelli* or with a specific combination dedicated to *Monticelli*. In general, it is a relatively simple matter to determine the original form in which the specific name⁴ was published, but it is frequently almost

³ The substantive French text of Article 14 of the International Code is given in paragraph 2 of NOTE 2 to the present *Opinion*. As the English text is only a translation of the substantive French text (see footnote 5 below), it is identical with that text in form and lay-out as well as in meaning. Reference to the text shows:—(i) that Article 14 is divided into three separate paragraphs, each dealing with a distinct subject, and (ii) that the first of these paragraphs is itself subdivided into three sections, which are distinguished from one another by being lettered " (a)," " (b)," and " (c)" respectively. In some of the editions of the International Code, the three lettered sections of the first paragraph are not clearly marked as forming part of a single paragraph by being printed inset from the main margin. In consequence, there is a risk that the lettered heading " (c)" may be erroneously interpreted as being the heading not only for the third section of paragraph one of Article 14 but also for paragraphs two and three of that Article. This is the explanation for the fact that in the original edition of *Opinion* 8 (published in 1910) paragraph three of Article 14 was thrice erroneously referred to as "Art. 14c." The first of these occasions was in the title to the *Opinion*, the second in the summary and the third in the last line of paragraph 3 of the main text of the *Opinion*. In the present edition, this error has been corrected by the substitution in each of the above passages of the expression "Article 14, third paragraph."

⁴ See footnote 1.

impossible to determine the exact name of the person to whom the species was dedicated. On this account, the change from “*ii*” to “*i*” is not authorised by Article 19, which reads ⁵:—

The original orthography of a name is to be preserved unless an error of transcription, a *lapsus calami*, or a typographical error is evident.

6. The conclusion must therefore be drawn that under the present Code the original form of the name should be retained, regardless of the question whether it ends in “*i*” or “*ii*,” although authors are advised to be very careful about this point in forming new names, and to adopt the “*ii*” only when the person’s name used as basis for the specific name ends in “*i*.”

7. *Opinion* written by Stiles.

8. *Opinion* concurred in by eleven (11) Commissioners: Graff, Hoyle, Jentink, Jordan,⁶ Joubin, Maehrenthal, Monticelli,⁷ Schulze, Stejneger, Stiles, Wright.

9. *Opinion* dissented from by one (1) Commissioner: Blanchard.

10. Not voting, two (2) Commissioners: Osborn, Studer.

11. Vote both ways, one (1) Commissioner:⁸ Dautzenberg.

III.—SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE BY ONE COMMISSIONER.

12. Monticelli adds:

I accept as *maxima* the opinion given by Stiles, but I think it not impossible that an author in a revisional work of a genus, a family, or a group of animals, as in works like the “Thierreich,” should change the orthography of all the specific patronymic names to accord strictly with Article 14c.⁹

⁵ The substantive (and therefore, in case of dispute, the only authoritative) text of the International Code is the French text. The English text (here quoted) and the German and Italian texts are translations only.

⁶ The Commissioner here referred to is the late Commissioner David Starr Jordan not Commissioner Karl Jordan, the present President of the Commission, who at the time of the adoption of *Opinion* 8 was not a member of the Commission.

⁷ For the supplementary note furnished by Commissioner Monticelli, when voting on this *Opinion*, see paragraph 12.

⁸ The ballot paper distributed to each Commissioner for use when voting on an *Opinion* contained two blank spaces for the signature of the Commissioners concerned, the signature to be placed in one space if the Commissioner concurred in the proposed *Opinion* and in the other space if he did not. In the case here referred to, the Commissioner concerned appears to have failed to understand the form of the ballot paper and therefore to have added his signature in each of the blank spaces provided.

⁹ See footnote 3.

Editorial Notes by Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

NOTE 1.

Historical particulars.

This *Opinion* was published in July 1910 (*Smithsonian Publication* 1938 : 11-12), when the Smithsonian Institution first undertook to publish the *Opinions* rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

2. This *Opinion* is undated, but it cannot have been adopted earlier than some date in 1908 (the earliest date on which the earlier *Opinion* 6 can have been adopted)¹⁰ or later than some date in the first half of 1910, since (as shown above) it was published in July of that year.

3. For the reasons explained in paragraph 4 of NOTE 1 to *Opinion* 6¹¹ no manuscript or other unpublished documents relating to this *Opinion* are preserved in the archives of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

NOTE 2.

On the inter-relation of Articles 14 and 19 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

Opinion 8 is concerned with the interpretation of two provisions of the International Code, the reconciliation of which with one another presented certain difficulties. The first of these provisions (contained in the third paragraph of Article 14) is expressly concerned with the manner in which specific (and subspecific) trivial names should be formed when those names are modern patronymics, while the second of these provisions (Article 19) regulates the conditions in which the original orthography of a name belonging to any of the classes of name dealt with in the Code should be emended, if originally published in an incorrect form.

¹⁰ See paragraph 2 of NOTE 1 to *Opinion* 6 (page 132 above).

¹¹ See page 132 above.

2. The following is the text of the substantive French text ¹² of the Articles of the Code referred to above :—

14. (1) Les noms spécifiques sont :—

(a) des adjectifs s'accordant en genre avec le nom générique;
Exemple : *Felis marmorata*.

(b) des substantifs au nominatif, accolés par voie d'apposition au nom générique;
Exemple : *Felis leo*.

(c) des substantifs au génitif.

Exemples : *rosae*, *sturionis*, *antillarum*, *galliae*, *sancti-pauli*, *sanctae-helenae*.

(2) Quand il s'agit d'exprimer une dédicace à une ou plusieurs personnes, le génitif suit les règles de la déclinaison latine, si le nom dont il s'agit a été employé et décliné en latin.

Exemples : *Plinii*, *Aristotelis*, *Victoris*, *Antonii*, *Elisabethae*, *Petri* (prenom).

(3) Quand il s'agit de dédier une espèce à une personne portant un nom moderne, le génitif est toujours formé par l'addition au nom exact et complet de la personne, d'un "i," quand celle-ci est un homme, ou de "ae," quand c'est une femme, même si le nom est d'apparence latine; il est mis au pluriel, quand la dédicace est faite à plusieurs personnes du même nom.

Exemples : *Cuvieri*, *Möbiusi*, *Nuñezi*, *Merianae*, *Sarasinorum*, *Bosi* (et non *Bovis*), *Salmoni* (et non *Salmonis*).

19. L'orthographe originelle d'un nom doit être conservée, à moins qu'il ne soit évident que ce nom renferme une faute de transcription, d'orthographe ou d'impression.

3. Where an author decides to publish a trivial name based upon a modern patronymic (for example, a name formed in honour of the nineteenth-century collector Leopold von Schrenck) and publishes that name in the genitive singular (as required by the third paragraph of Article 14 of the Code) but with a double terminal "ii" (as *schrenckii*), he clearly offends against that portion of the same paragraph of Article 14, which requires that such a name should be formed with a single terminal "i" (as *schrencki*).

4. In such a case, there may be no evidence whatever to show that the use by the author concerned of the double terminal "ii" is due either (a) to a "faute de transcription" or (b) to a "faute d'orthographe" or (c) to a "faute d'impression." Accordingly, under Article 19 of the Code, if read by itself, the original orthography of the name (*schrenckii*) is to be preserved ("doit être conservée").

5. The question which the Commission had to determine in the present case was, therefore :—

¹² See footnote 5 above.

(A) whether the third paragraph of Article 14 overrides Article 19;

or

(B) whether Article 19 overrides the third paragraph of Article 14,

when, as in the example given in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, the two Articles appear to be in conflict with one another.

6. The effect of answering the above question in the sense indicated in answer "A" would be equivalent to treating Article 14 as though the words "Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 19" were added at the beginning of that Article and of treating Article 19 as though it commenced with the words "Subject to the provisions of Article 14." Conversely, the effect of answering the question in paragraph 5 above in the sense indicated in answer "B" would be equivalent to treating Article 14 as though it commenced with the words "Subject to the provisions of Article 19."

7. Faced with the foregoing problem, the International Commission, after careful consideration, decided in favour of answer "B." Accordingly, the effect of *Opinion 8* is to declare that, in any case where Article 14, third paragraph, and Article 19 are in conflict with one another, Article 19 is to be treated as overriding the third paragraph of Article 14.

8. The problem dealt with in this *Opinion* is a typical example of a case where a legal code contains provisions, each of which, when judged in isolation, is perfectly clear in its meaning, but, where there is a real doubt as to the meaning of the code, when, as occasionally happens, it is necessary to read the two provisions together. However carefully a code is drafted, the possibility of such a situation arising can never be wholly eliminated; when such a situation does arise, it can only be resolved by the question at issue being referred for decision to whatever court or appeal body may have been established for the purpose of interpreting the provisions of the code when their meaning is in doubt.

9. In the case of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the International Congress of Zoology, the body by which the Code was enacted, has constituted the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to be the body responsible for interpreting the Code. The case dealt with in *Opinion 8* raised an issue on which, in the absence of an authoritative interpretation, there was room for diametrically opposite opinions.

Opinion 8 provided the requisite authoritative interpretation, thereby putting an end to all doubts as to the manner in which Article 14, third paragraph, and Article 19 are to be interpreted in relation to one another.

FRANCIS HEMMING.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

Secretariat of the Commission,
at the British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road, LONDON, S.W.7.

20th June 1944.

THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

(obtainable at the Publications Office of the Commission at 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.)

Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature.

This journal has been established by the International Commission as their Official Organ in order to provide a medium for the publication of :—

- (a) proposals on zoological nomenclature submitted to the International Commission for deliberation and decision;
- (b) comments received from, and correspondence by the Secretary with, zoologists on proposals published in the *Bulletin* under (a) above; and
- (c) papers on nomenclatorial implications of developments in taxonomic theory and practice.

The *Bulletin* was established in 1943, in which year three Parts were published. Part 4 was published in 1944. Parts 5 and 6 are in the press.

Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

The above work is being published in three volumes concurrently, namely :—

Volume 1. This volume will contain *Declarations* 1-9 (which have never previously been published) and *Opinions* 1-133 (the original issue of which is now out of print). Parts 1-20 (containing *Declarations* 1-9 and *Opinions* 1-11) have now been published. Further Parts will be published shortly.

Volume 2. This volume will be issued in 52 Parts, comprising all the decisions taken by the International Commission at their meeting at Lisbon in 1935, namely *Declarations* 10-12 (with Roman pagination) and *Opinions* 134-181 (with Arabic pagination). Part 52 will contain the index and title page of the volume. Parts 1-30, containing *Declarations* 10-12 and *Opinions* 134-160, have now been published. Further Parts will be published shortly.

Volume 3. This volume, which commenced with *Opinion* 182, will contain the *Opinions* adopted by the International Commission since their meeting at Lisbon in 1935. Parts 1-5 (containing *Opinions* 182-186) have now been published. Further Parts will be published as soon as possible.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

The International Commission appeal earnestly to all institutions and individuals interested in the development of zoological nomenclature to contribute, according to their means, to the Commission's Special (Publications) Fund. Of the total sum of £1,800 required to enable the Commission to issue all the publications now awaiting printing, donations amounting to £819 8s. 7d. were received up to 31st December 1944. Additional contributions are urgently needed in order to enable the Commission to continue their work without interruption. Contributions of any amount, however small, will be most gratefully received.

Contributions should be sent to the International Commission at their Publications Office, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 7, and made payable to the "International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature or Order" and crossed "Account payee. Coutts & Co."

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY
RICHARD CLAY AND COMPANY, LTD.,
BUNGAY SUFFOLK.